(b) The details of year-wise expenditure incurred on Narmada Sagar Dam on Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years are as under:

1994—95	Rs. 126.33 crores
1995—96	Rs. 96.78 crores
1996—97	Rs. 99.69 crores

(c) and (d) Madhya Pradesh has prepared a Master Plan for utilising its share of Narmada Waters of 18.25 million acre feet allotted to it for increasing irrigation capacity and power generation. Under this Master Plan 29 Major, 135 Medium and 3000 minor schemes have been planned. The allocated share of water is expected to be utilised subject to the availability of funds, within 45 years from the year of publication of Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award in 1979. The proposed major projects are planned to be completed in two phases. Phase-I covering the period 1979-2000 and Phase-II covering the period 2000-2015.

[English]

Private Sector Participation in Production of Defence Equipment

*64. SHRI B. L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow private sector participation in the production of defence equipment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) its likely impact on the defence and security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Participation of private sector in the production of defence equipment in the country has been an on-going process for several decades.

(b) Consequent to the 1962 and 1965 operations, the necessity of achieving a large measure of self-reliance in defence equipment was felt and the Department of Defence Production was set up with the specific objective of enhancing the participation of the civil sector inudustry in indigenisation of defence production. The production has been mostly in the non-lethal and non-sensitive items.

(c) Involvement of the private sector has enhanced the defence preparedness of the country by way of utilisation of existing infrastructure for quicker procurement of defence needs. Privatisation has no adverse impact on security as privatisation is adopted selectively to exclude sensitive equipments which are being developed or manufactured through public sector organisations.

National Road Safety Policy

*65. SHRI G. A. CHARAN REDDY:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have adopted revised National Roads Safety Policy as proposed by the National Roads Safety Council for reducing the accident rate in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Council has also recommended amending the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 for enhancing road safety;

(d) the time by which the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced;

(e) whether the Government have requested the State Government to play an important role in the field of road safety;

(f) whether any financial assistance is being provided to the State Government in this regard;

(g) whether the State Government are not effectively using the financial assistance being given to them under the National Highway Patrolling Scheme;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(i) whether the State Governments have been urged to give matching grants to the NGDs to whom grant in aid provided by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised National Road Safety Policy aims to bring down the number of fatalities in road accidents to about 12 per 10,000 vehicles and the number of road accidents to about 50 per 10,000 vehicles by the year 2001 AD.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The legislation will be introduced shortly.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) and (h) There were instances of delay on the part of some State Governments in purchasing the equipments and putting them into operation due to delay in the completion of procedural formalities involved in procurement.

(i) No, Sir.

Illegal Phones

*66 SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been

drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Illegal Statellite Phones Leave Government Poorer' appearing in the Economic Times dated October, 24, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The news item is highly speculative in nature, including the figure of 500 illegal subscribers reported therein. The licence fee payable by the subscriber is Rs. 100 along with Royalty of Rs. 20,000/- and not Rs. 50,000- as reported in the news item.

(c) The use of illegal Mini-M terminals cannot be entirely ruled out because of their very small size. However, restricting the use of Mini-M terminals by individuals is engaging the attention of Government for some time in view of the security implications mentioned in the news item. Howover to begin with, only Government Departments, Ministers of the Central Government and Chief Ministers of the State Govt. will be permitted to use this facility. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence have been approched to consider the security implications of satellite phones.

Performance of Literacy Programmes

*67. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evaluated the performance of National Literacy Mission and Adult Education Programme being implemented in Orissa and other States;

(b) if so, the details of achievements and deficiencies noticed by the Government in implementation of these programmes; and

(c) the details of steps proposed to be taken to check the deficiencies noticed therein?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Education had constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Arun Ghosh for conducting status-cum-impact Evaluation of the Total Literacy Campaigns in the country. The strengths noted by the Expert Group are as follows:

— It is more of movement than a programme.

— There has been an overwhelming impact on women.

— Total literacy campaigns have led to a positive impact on caste and communal relations.

— The literacy movement has generated a demand for primary education.

— Literacy campaigns have activated concern for developing a just and humane society.

— They have led to sensitization of the bureaucracy.

— The launching of literacy campaigns has placed literacy on the national agenda.

The weaknesses noted are:

— The quality of teaching has suffered in some places where there has been excessive preoccupation with literacy skills alone.

— Fragile literacy skills need to be consolidated through more effective post literacy measures.

— Some campaigns have been launched without adequate preparations.

— Progress of literacy has been rather slow in urban areas.

(c) Some of the steps taken to strengthen and improve literacy programmes are:

— State Government requested to draw up a time bound action plan for bringing uncovered districts under total/post literacy campaigns.

— Measures initiated to increase the motivation of volunteers engaged in literacy campaigns through recongnition and appreciation of their efforts.

— Panchayati Raj Institutions being involved more intimately in implementation of literacy campaigns.

— Stress laid on reinforcing linkages between the literacy programme and other development programmes.

— Decentralisation and delegation of authority to State Governments for implementation of literacy programmes by establishment of State Literacy Missions.

— Guidelines laid down by National Literacy Mission to revamp and strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. State Directorates of Adult Education to closely monitor the literacy programmes by holding monthly monitoring meetings with the Secretaries of Zilla Saksharata Samitis.

— Concurrent evaluation of literacy programmes is being rigorously enforced for identifying shortcomings in the implementation and initiating timely corrective measures.